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Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1999

LB 427

title.) Bill was introduced on January 14, referred to the Transportation Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, I have never been more comfortable in saying to you this is a bill that will make your constituents happy. The objective of this bill is to give each and every citizen of the state an effective, an effective method of declining telemarketing calls, and it will, likewise, give to telemarketers an effective method of contacting only those people who would be receptive to their calls. The mechanism of the bill is fairly simple. It directs the Public Service Commission to establish what we call a no-call list and every citizen of the state who wishes to be included on that list could be included by filing a registration form and a \$5 fee, and this right to be included on the list would apply only to residential phone numbers. And the list would be available to telemarketers for \$10 a year and they would be required to have this list and to not call citizens who are on the list. It would not prohibit certain types of calls, calls that are from nonprofit corporations, charity solicitations. Those would not be prohibited, so that no matter whether you were on the list or not on the list you would still be receiving those types of calls. It is enforced primarily by a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation and the Public Service Commission would be responsible for enforcing the law. That is basically what the bill does. It is modeled, frankly, on a Georgia law, and I'll tell you a little bit more about that. For those of you who are interested in the details of how this law, generally, and how the Georgia law works I have passed out to you two lists. One is a list of frequently asked questions that the Georgia commission has been asked from the point of view of telephone subscribers, and also a list of questions that are commonly asked by telemarketers with respect to their system, and so it will give you a good idea of what they're doing down there. You need to know, and I think this is the only argument against the bill, really, and I do not consider it a strong argument at all, but you need to know that there are things out there now that are considered by some alternatives to this particular system.